

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 5, 2010 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, R. Barrett, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger and township resident Frank Sharp and Americorp watershed ambassador Adam Osborn.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2010 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

S. Carroll motioned to approve CTEC and Green Team minutes from December 1, 2009 and S. Hoag 2nd with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2010 AND JANUARY 2011.

Usually every first Tuesday, except no meeting in July, at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township municipal building. The dates are Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, July no meeting, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, 2010 and Jan 11, 2011.

REORGANIZE

Mr. Carroll motion to appoint Mrs. Stillinger as Chairperson and Ms. Collington 2nd with all in favor. Mr. Caprioglio motioned to appoint Ms. Abbott as Vice-chair and Mrs. Hoag 2nd with all in favor.

EVENTS

- Ten Towns meeting Wednesday January 27 at 8 AM at the Garabrant Center in Mendham. K. Abbott and D. Stillinger will make a presentation requesting the TT to create a ROW vegetation management plan for the watershed, similar to what has been done for the Pinelands. All welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Green Team on achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification and the Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award for Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. Congratulations to S. Carroll for all his detailed work, P. Collington for her tireless education and outreach work, and to S. Hoag for the many hours she spent on the expanded recycling program and recycling collection shed, an SJ action item, and J. Matthews for her help with the Green Fair, energy audit and expanded recycling. Primary credit for Chatham Township's share of the Collaboration award should go to K. Abbott and P. Collington, who led both the Green Fair and anti-idling efforts.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (convened 7:30 pm – adjourned 7:47 pm)

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair.

No updated status on sustainable jersey because the website is shut down.

Working on preliminary draft of energy audit of municipality facility.

- NJ Clean Energy's Community Partnership Program potential participation.
- Upcoming Sustainable Jersey training workshops Jan. 20, 27, 29, Feb. 9, 16, 17. Info at <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/community-partners-initiative-0>

REPORTS/DISCUSSION

- Open Space Committee report. (no Dec. meeting) S. Hoag. Land purchase at the end of Long Hill Lane, 28 acres, includes house, the house will be used for rangers.
- Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio. 55 Mountain Ave discussion to continue at next meeting; new chairperson to be appointed, current chairperson resigning within a few months, although he will continue to work with board to help with transition. Rose Valle application to omit a pond liner was withdrawn, liner will be installed.
- Township Committee report. Electronics recycling events for 2010, one event hosted by township, 2nd by county.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee report. 14 articles written in December. Work in progress includes: video contest, compost & rain gardens, video on sustainable schools, water theme movie night-kickoff in February at Borough library, working with girl scouts, also working with schools with environmental issues. Commission members discussed and decided to revise land use booklet to be an informational sheet instead of booklet as a handout with permit packets. K. Abbott & P. Collington.
- Recycling Committee report. Battery and print cartridge recycling continues to do well. S. Hoag
- Website Committee report. Contour maps are now on website. Commission discussed periodic maintenance and adding pictures of EC members to website. F. Esposito.

CTEC goals for 2010: each subcommittee has a list of proposed goals to work on and will review at monthly meetings. Commission discussed the use of subcommittees working together outside of monthly CTEC meetings and reporting back at monthly meeting.

ISSUES

- Artificial turf at Shunpike Field. No update. NJDEP has approved construction. Conservation easement required on lower portions of lot and on almost all of the adjoining lot. Tree buffer will be preserved and extra plantings made, field to be made smaller, bids will be requested for material other than tire crumb as well as tire crumb. K. Abbott.
- NJCF conservation easements on township-owned land on Green Village Road. No update. The Township is assuming responsibility. R. Barrett, D. Stillinger. S. Hoag will discuss with Open Space regarding this issue.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- NEW. JCP&L. 12-10-09. Notice from JCP&L of application to NJDEP for wetlands permits to allow vegetation and structural maintenance in wetlands along their rights-of-way in 174 municipalities in 13 counties. Review proposed EC letter to DEP. S. Carroll motioned to send letter to the DEP and P. Collington 2nd with all in favor. S. Hoag, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger.
- NEW. CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL. 700 Shunpike Road. 12-14-09. Block 135, Lots 1 & 9. Application to Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final site plan approval and conditional use approval for a school in a residential zone. Demolition of several buildings and construction of a large new building as well as an enlarged parking area on steep slopes are proposed. At least 56 trees are proposed to be removed, and up to 115 if the northwestern area is disturbed, with only 22 proposed to be replaced. CTEC should continue urging Board of Adjustment to require a conservation easement on the northwestern 5 acres which are sloped and vegetated. At one time that area was disturbed but it has now regrown and settled into an established habitat. Some areas of soil have a minimal amount of chlordane and dieldrin from previous agricultural use; only one soil sample out of about two dozen tested had a level above the DEP minimum for non-residential remediation (1.2 ppm of chlordane where the DEP-required level is 1.0 ppm.) Physical remediation would not be needed if a conservation easement were placed on the northwestern 5 acres including the contaminated sites as that would constitute an Institutional Control under DEP rules. Review proposed memo to Board of Adjustment. F. Esposito motioned to send memo to Board of Adjustment and S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor. S. Hoag, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger.
- PENDING. MAJMUDAR. 55 Mountain Ave. Block 37 Lot 5.01. Majmudar plans to sue unless he is granted approval to build a larger house than called for in the previous settlement agreement. Neighbors presented a detailed case against the application at a Planning Board meeting on December 7. No action by EC required right now.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Form letter response from BPU to EC's letter objecting to excessive pesticides in ROWs with regards to vegetative maintenance.
- Letter from Community Food Bank thanking CTEC for the donation of 4 bicycles.
- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Various flyers, notices, and newsletters.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary